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GRADUATE SCHOOL

EDUCATION FOR A
STRONGER NATION

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Newsletter

MAY 17 1965

April 16, 1965

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 4

Faculty Luncheon

CIVIL RIGHTS

"Civil rights is a national, not a regional problem" William L. Taylor, Staff Director-Designate of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, told the guests at our April faculty luncheon.

But, he added, when the immediate events of Selma are over we will find, just as we did after Birmingham, that the world is not the same as it was before.

"It is appropriate that today we recognize as the critical issue the necessity for effective guarantees of the right to vote. What Selma has done has been to bring the dry statistics of racial disfranchisement to life and to enable the whole nation to see this as a human problem, as a matter of conscience for us all.

"At long last we are concentrating on what must be done to deal with the real instruments of racial disfranchisement--the use of "literacy" tests and the unfettered discretion vested in local registration officials in places with a history of voting discrimination.



"As to literacy tests, it is now clear that the appropriate means for removing them as a barrier to the right to vote is to bar their use entirely. With the advent of the mass media, particularly television, literacy tests even fairly applied are no longer a very relevant measure of a citizen's ability to participate intelligently in the political process.

"As to the need for Federal registration officials, history shows that where the will to discriminate exists, new ways will be found to accomplish it as the old are struck down. Recently we have recognized that the Federal judicial system, geared

to provide relief for individual grievances, is not an effective force for remedying mass deprivations of rights sanctioned by the power of the States.

"If the Administration's bill is enacted into law, without impairment, a long step will have been taken toward eliminating the major instruments of disfranchisement. But the job of fully enfranchising Negroes throughout the rural South will barely have begun--because physical violence, intimidation, fear, economic dependence, and educational deprivation will still stand as hurdles to be overcome. And to overcome them will require the combined efforts and resources of the Federal government, community leaders and public officials, and private organizations."

* * * *

QUALITY OF LIFE IN 1980

"nobody can talk definitively about the quality of life now or 15 years from now... Quality involves taste, it involves perception... At our pace of change, any present moment contains 50 percent of the future... Granted America will be bigger in 1980... will it be any better?

With these remarks Dr. Paul Ylvisaker, Director of Public Affairs of the Ford Foundation, prefaced his comments on the "Quality of Life In 1980," in the third of the lecture series entitled, "America 1980."

In keeping with his opening statements Dr. Ylvisaker, rather than making any specific projections, presented three levels of quality in which America could find herself by 1980. He titled these levels, "America In Decline," "America--More of the Same," and "The America I'd Like My Children to Help Build and Inherit."

He noted some trends evident today which indicate hope for a better America in the future--the increases in research and development, in philanthropic projects, and in the arts; the change in the position of the church from a negative to a more positive point of view; the progressive decisions rendered by the Supreme Court in the past decade; and the stabilization of our economy.

Instrumental in the future development of America will be what Dr. Ylvisaker called, the "social rebel." He explained this term by saying it applies to those who instigate action through action (the civil rights marchers); "Those who make life uncomfortable--those whom social progress is molded around," he added.

Dr. Ylvisaker went on to speak of America 1980 as though he were looking back on these events:

America In Decline--"Creativity is more barren... The War On Poverty failed... Life is less secure... Military and public works corps increased... There is more TV than ever before... We are on the moon--Russia is on Mars... Cities are sprawling."

America--More Of the Same--"Bars to immigration are down... There are fewer children... Mortality rate is up due to air pollution and smoking... There are more cars than kids... There is an increased growth of the sprawling metropolitan areas--they all look like Los Angeles... There are more apartments... There is

a 35-hour work week... Industry is heavily automated but men bumped out of their jobs are quickly retrained and fitted into new jobs."

The America I'd Like My Children To Help Build and Inherit--"There is an atmosphere of caring--of concern--due to the Poverty War and the marches... The marches--the Negro contribution--are dedicated to the nonviolent tactics of Dr. King... They have been extended and have become a fourth branch of the government. They have produced reforms that have stimulated production in the South... They have been extended to other soft spots--vocational training, the arts, labor unions, racketeers and hoods, etc.... In 1976 the longest parade ever broke up the Yankee baseball domination and Mickey Mantle, Jr. was traded to Atlantic.

"A new art for breaking social and political bottlenecks was developed--there was an insistence that things get done and people get served... The urban habitat is improved... The arts and humanities are alive at all income levels because the country is alive."

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GOVERNMENT IN 1980

Though our future democratic government will have to bear even greater pressures; though it will be forced to make some changes in order to survive; though the decisions it renders and the actions it takes will increase in importance, it will survive --it will be strong enough to meet the challenges of the next 15 years.

This was the theme of Senator Joseph L. Clark's remarks on "Government In 1980" in the fourth and final lecture of the series on "America 1980."

Senator Clark listed three points to support his belief in the ability of our government to endure the coming years.

First, he said that government and politics will change to meet the needs. "The structure of government is the result of experience gained from previous structures," he said. He added that he felt the same techniques could be applied to international affairs.

Second, he said "The economy is one of the major factors that shape government." He added that the international integration of the economy will be a part of the face of a more over-all international government.

The third reason the Senator felt our government will endure is because, "The power of government is continuing to grow." As he put it, "It has a duty to grow."

The Senator listed a series of changes, both at home and abroad, which he expects to develop by 1980:

"By 1980 we will have a highly technical society, and a productive one as well. Our Gross National Product would be more than a trillion dollars. We will have the principal resources to sustain this growth.

"Problems we will have to cope with will be rapidly growing cities and the increased need for providing for them. There will be a danger of over-working our leaders--

the strain of the intense and diversified problems they must face could cause breakdowns in massive numbers.

"There will be a new look in international affairs... an expansion of international law... a world court to settle international disputes... a general disarmament with international policing.

"There will be an international monetary system under which no one nation will be burdened with the support of others.

"There will be an increase in international cooperation in arts and science--for instance, in outer space endeavors."

We will take on a new look at home also, according to Senator Clark. "The government will be in education more than ever," he said. "This national education program will upgrade education, which will result in a more intelligent populous, which in turn will demand better, more qualified leaders."

"Machine politics will disappear--the people will not be fooled by propaganda. Politics will become more issue-oriented--those who recognize the national needs will be the leaders. There will be a need for more direct coordination of our endeavors--more national planning."

Sincerely yours,

John B. Holden
John B. Holden
Director

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN -- Pictured below are newly-appointed chairmen of four Graduate School committees. They are, left to right, Ruth M. Leverton, Department of Biological Sciences; Frederick C. Durant, Department of Technology; Joseph L. Matthews, Committee on Academic Excellence; and Jack M. Meiners, Beltsville Geographical Committee.

